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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

TRADEBAY LLC, a Nevada limited liability
company,
vs.
EBAY INC., a Delaware corporation, et al.,
Defendants.

Plaintiff,

CASE NO. 2:11-cv-00702-ECR-PAL
**DEFENDANT EBAY INC.'S REPLY IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS
PLAINTIFF TRADEBAY LLC'S
AMENDED COMPLAINT**

Preliminary Statement

2 Tradebay stakes its entire opposition on a misstatement of the law—that the Supreme
3 Court, the Ninth Circuit and the Federal Circuit have all "rejected" any requirement that it take
4 concrete steps to actually use its purported trademark in order to obtain a declaratory judgment of
5 non-infringement. In fact, none of them have. To the contrary, the Ninth Circuit has specifically
6 stated (in the patent context) that "when the plaintiff has not yet begun to manufacture, or make
7 preparations to manufacture, the patented product[,] . . . the plaintiff is asking the court to render
8 an advisory opinion whether its product would be infringing a valid patent if the plaintiff . . .
9 actually proceeds to the manufacturing stage." Societe de Conditionnement en Aluminium v.
10 Hunter Eng'n Co., 655 F.2d 938, 944 (9th Cir. 1981). This principle has been re-affirmed by the
11 Federal Circuit in decisions since the Supreme Court's opinion in MedImmune, which makes clear
12 that the question in each case is whether the facts alleged, under all of the circumstances, show
13 that there is a substantial controversy of "sufficient immediacy and reality" to warrant the issuance
14 of a declaratory judgment.

15 Tradebay makes no attempt to show that it has alleged, let alone actually undertaken, any
16 concrete steps to actually use the TRADEBAY mark in connection with any goods or services.
17 At best, Tradebay has alleged nothing more than a vague and indefinite desire to use the
18 TRADEBAY mark at some future date. That does not come close to showing a real and
19 immediate controversy. Tradebay's utter failure to allege the requisite concrete steps can only
20 lead to the conclusion that it has not engaged in any such activity. Under these circumstances, it
21 would be a waste of the Court's (and eBay's) time and resources to render what would amount to
22 an impermissible advisory opinion as to whether activities Tradebay may or may not undertake in
23 the future would infringe or dilute eBay's trademarks.

24 Unable to point to any facts showing concrete steps to use the mark in issue, Tradebay
25 seeks to avoid any scrutiny of the allegations of the complaint under the Twombly and Iqbal
26 standards, arguing that subject matter jurisdiction is governed by Rule 12(b)(1), not Rule 12(b)(6).
27 This argument misses the mark. At the pleading stage, the issue is whether the allegations of the
28 complaint allege sufficient facts to state a claim for declaratory relief. Tradebay's amended

1 complaint clearly does not. To the extent Tradebay invites the Court to go beyond the pleadings
 2 and consider evidence of concrete steps, Tradebay has presented none. In either event,
 3 Tradebay's amended complaint should be dismissed.

4 **Argument**

5 **I. THERE IS NO REAL AND SUBSTANTIAL CONTROVERSY ABSENT**
 6 **CONCRETE STEPS BY TRADEBAY TO USE THE MARK**

7 **A. The Ninth Circuit Has Not Rejected Consideration Of The Steps Undertaken**
 8 **By The Plaintiff To Use The Mark**

9 Tradebay makes no attempt to show that it has alleged anything other than a vague and
 10 indefinite desire to use the TRADEBAY mark at some future date. Instead, Tradebay argues that
 11 it need not allege facts showing concrete steps to use the mark because the Ninth Circuit has
 12 "expressly rejected" any such requirement. (Opp'n at 2.) Tradebay misstates Ninth Circuit law.
 13 In Societe de Conditionnement en Aluminium v. Hunter Eng'n Co., 655 F.2d 938 (9th Cir. 1981),
 14 the parties agreed that "an actual threat of litigation must be made" to satisfy the "case of actual
 15 controversy" requirement and the district court applied that standard in dismissing the complaint
 16 for declaratory relief. The Ninth Circuit rejected the "actual threat of litigation" standard, stating
 17 that "the Constitution has a much lower threshold than this standard would suggest." Id. at 942.

18 eBay's motion to dismiss is not premised on whether there was an "actual threat of
 19 litigation." Rather, as its moving papers make clear, eBay's motion focuses on Tradebay's failure
 20 to allege any concrete steps to use the TRADEBAY mark in commerce. Nowhere in its opinion
 21 in Societe de Conditionnement en Aluminium did the Ninth Circuit reject, as Tradebay claims,
 22 consideration of the steps taken by the declaratory judgment plaintiff to use the patented article or
 23 trademark at issue as part of the case or controversy analysis. To the contrary, the court
 24 specifically addressed the significance of the activities undertaken by the declaratory judgment
 25 plaintiff in determining whether a controversy that is "real and substantial" and "definite and
 26 concrete" exists. Id. at 943 (quoting Aetna Life Ins. Co. v. Haworth, 300 U.S. 227, 240-41
 27 (1937)). Thus, in language that Tradebay fails to address in its opposition, the Ninth Circuit
 28 stated:

1 In a case like the one before us, in which the plaintiff is engaged in the on-going
 2 manufacture of the alleged patented item, the showing of a real and reasonable
 3 apprehension beyond the manufacture of the item need not be substantial. The
 4 more acute case or controversy problem in the patent area arises **when the plaintiff**
 5 **has not yet begun to manufacture, or make preparations to manufacture, the**
 6 **patented product. In that situation, the plaintiff is asking the court to render an**
 7 **advisory opinion whether its product would be infringing a valid patent if the**
 8 **plaintiff Hunter actually proceeds to the manufacturing stage."**

9 *Id.* at 944 (emphasis added).

10 This analysis is no different than the two-prong approach employed by the Federal Circuit
 11 in Windsurfing Int'l Inc. v. AMF Inc., 828 F.2d 755 (Fed. Cir. 1987), where the court rejected a
 12 declaratory judgment plaintiff's effort to obtain a ruling on whether it could use the term
 13 "windsurfer" in the future. The court characterized the request as "We would like to use the
 14 mark, but before we do, we want the court to say we may do so safely," and held that the plaintiff
 15 was merely seeking "an advisory opinion, something a federal court may not give." Id. at 758.
 16 That the Ninth Circuit did not speak in terms of a two-prong test is immaterial. "[T]he question
 17 in each case is whether the facts alleged, under all the circumstances, show that there is a
 18 substantial controversy, between parties having adverse legal interests, of sufficient immediacy
 19 and reality to warrant the issuance of a declaratory judgment." Societe de Conditionnement en
 20 Aluminium, 655 F.2d at 942 (quoting Md. Cas. Co. v. Pac. Coal & Oil Co., 312 U.S. at 273). The
 21 Ninth Circuit has made clear that the steps taken by the declaratory judgment plaintiff with respect
 22 to the patented article or trademark at issue is an integral part of the analysis.

23 Nothing in Chesebrough-Pond's, Inc. v. Faberge, Inc., 666 F.2d 393 (9th Cir. 1982),
 24 suggests otherwise. In Chesebrough, the declaratory judgment plaintiff, like Tradebay here,
 25 sought a declaration of non-infringement. Unlike Tradebay, which fails to allege any concrete
 26 steps to actually use the mark at issue, the declaratory judgment plaintiff in Chesebrough had
 27 "begun developing the product line, investigating marketing and creating packaging and
 28 advertising." Id. at 395. In fact, the court noted that the plaintiff's initial investment in

1 development of the product line was approximately \$650,000, which, when adjusted for inflation,
 2 is more than \$2.7 million in 2011 dollars.¹ Id. Against this backdrop, the court considered
 3 whether the acts and intentions of the defendant created a "real and reasonable" apprehension of
 4 litigation even though there was no actual threat by defendant that it would sue. The court held
 5 that they did, noting that, among other things, defendant responded to the complaint for
 6 declaratory relief with a counterclaim seeking damages for trademark infringement, which
 7 bolstered plaintiff's claim that an actual controversy existed. Id. at 396-97. Nowhere did the
 8 court suggest that the declaratory judgment plaintiff's activities with respect to use of the mark are
 9 immaterial to the analysis, let alone reject the above-quoted language from Societe de
 10 Conditionnement en Aluminium which makes clear that such activities may in fact form the
 11 dividing line between a case of actual controversy and an impermissible advisory opinion.

12 Likewise, Tradebay's claim that the Ninth Circuit, in Rhoades v. Avon Prods., Inc., 504
 13 F.3d 1151 (9th Cir. 2007), "rejected the second prong of the Federal Circuit test" is simply false.
 14 In Rhoades, it was undisputed that the declaratory judgment plaintiff actually distributed products
 15 using the trademarks at issue. Id. at 1155. Accordingly, the focus of the analysis was whether
 16 the defendants actions created a real and reasonable apprehension of suit. In this regard, the court
 17 stated that "an action for a declaratory judgment that a patent or trademark is invalid, or that the
 18 plaintiff is not infringing presents a case or controversy if the plaintiff has a real and reasonable
 19 apprehension that he will be subject to liability *if he continues to manufacture his product.*" Id.
 20 at 1157 (quoting Hal Roach Studios, Inc. v. Richard Feiner & Co., Inc., 896 F.2d 1542, 1555-56
 21 (9th Cir. 1990) (internal alterations omitted) (emphasis added)). The only test rejected by the
 22 court was the one that required an "actual threat" of litigation. Id. at 1157, n.4 ("To the extent
 23 both parties rely on the Federal Circuit's articulation of this test, which requires an 'explicit threat'
 24 or other action by the patentee or trademark owner . . . that reliance is misplaced, as that burden is
 25 heavier than we require.") (internal citations and alterations omitted). On that point, the court
 26

27 ¹ According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator, \$650,000 in 1975 has
 28 the same buying power as \$2,727,124.54 in 2011. See <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl?cost1=650000&year1=1975&year2=2011>.

1 merely re-affirmed its prior holding in Societe de Conditionnement en Aluminium, the same case
 2 in which the Ninth Circuit stated that "when the plaintiff has not yet begun to manufacture, or
 3 make preparations to manufacture, the patented product[,] . . . the plaintiff is asking the court to
 4 render an advisory opinion." 655 F.2d at 944.

5 Far from rejecting any consideration of the steps taken by the declaratory judgment
 6 plaintiff to use the trademark in issue, controlling Ninth Circuit authority is entirely consistent
 7 with the requirement that such plaintiffs allege facts showing concrete steps to use the mark in
 8 order to state a claim for declaratory relief.

9 **B. The Supreme Court Has Not Rejected Consideration Of The Steps**
 10 Undertaken By The Plaintiff To Use The Mark

11 Tradebay also claims that in MedImmune, Inc. v. Genentech, Inc., 549 U.S. 118 (2007),
 12 the Supreme Court "expressly rejected" any consideration of the declaratory judgment plaintiff's
 13 steps to use patented article or trademark at issue as part of the case or controversy analysis. Not
 14 so.

15 In MedImmune, the declaratory judgment plaintiff was actively engaged in the
 16 manufacture and sale of the product at issue and paid royalties to the defendant under a patent
 17 licensing agreement. Plaintiff disputed that its product, which accounted for more than 80
 18 percent of its revenues, was covered by the patent licensing agreement, but paid the royalties
 19 "under protest" and filed a lawsuit seeking a declaration that the patent was invalid and not
 20 infringed. Id. at 120-22. The district court granted defendant's motion to dismiss the declaratory
 21 judgment claim for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, relying on the Federal Circuit's decision in
 22 Gen-Probe Inc. v. Vysis, Inc., 359 F.3d 1376 (Fed. Cir. 2004), which held that a patent licensee in
 23 good standing cannot establish an Article III case or controversy with regard to the validity,
 24 enforceability, or scope of the patent because the license agreement "obliterate[d] any reasonable
 25 apprehension" that the licensee would be sued for infringement. MedImmune, 549 U.S. at 122
 26 (quoting Gen-Probe, 359 F.3d at 1381). In other words, plaintiff's performance under the
 27 licensing agreement eliminated any "reasonable apprehension" that it would be sued for
 28 infringement. The Federal Circuit affirmed the district court, also relying on Gen-Probe.

1 The Supreme Court reversed, holding the declaratory judgment plaintiff was "not required,
 2 insofar as Article III is concerned, to break or terminate its 1997 license agreement before seeking
 3 a declaratory judgment in federal court that the underlying patent is invalid, unenforceable, or not
 4 infringed." MedImmune, 549 U.S. at 137. The Court noted that the Federal Circuit's application
 5 of the "reasonable-apprehension-of-suit" test conflicted with its decision in Md. Cas. Co. v. Pac.
 6 Coal & Oil Co., 312 U.S. 270, 273 (1941), which stated that "the question in each case is whether
 7 the facts alleged, under all the circumstances, show that there is a substantial controversy, between
 8 parties having adverse legal interests, of sufficient immediacy and reality to warrant the issuance
 9 of a declaratory judgment." MedImmune, 549 U.S. at 127, 132 n.11.

10 Thus, while the Court rejected rigid application of the "reasonable-apprehension-of-suit"
 11 test to defeat the case or controversy requirement on the facts before it, it did not reject
 12 consideration of the declaratory judgment plaintiff's activities with respect to use of the potentially
 13 infringing item in determining whether "under all the circumstances" a controversy that is
 14 "definite and concrete" and "real and substantial" exists. Nor did the Court call into question the
 15 Ninth Circuit's statement that "when the plaintiff has not yet begun to manufacture, or make
 16 preparations to manufacture, the patented product[,] . . . the plaintiff is asking the court to render
 17 an advisory opinion." Societe de Conditionnement en Aluminium, 655 F.2d at 944.

18 C. **The Federal Circuit Has Not Rejected Consideration Of The Steps**
 19 **Undertaken By The Plaintiff To Use The Mark**

20 Again conflating the reasonable apprehension of suit test with an examination of whether
 21 the declaratory judgment plaintiff has taken concrete steps to use the mark at issue, Tradebay
 22 argues—incorrectly—that, after MedImmune, the Federal Circuit rejected the "standard on which
 23 eBay relies." (Opp'n at 9.) In Benitec Australia, Ltd. v. Nucleonics, Inc., 495 F.3d 1340 (Fed.
 24 Cir. 2007), the case on which Tradebay relies for this proposition, the court stated:

25 Prior to MedImmune, our case law required that there be both (1) an explicit threat
 26 or other action by the patentee, which creates a reasonable apprehension on the part
 27 of the declaratory plaintiff that it will face an infringement suit, and (2) present
 28 activity which could constitute infringement or concrete steps taken with the intent

1 to conduct such activity. However, the Supreme Court's opinion in MedImmune
 2 represents a rejection of our reasonable apprehension of suit test.

3 Id. at 1343-44. (Internal citations omitted.)

4 Nothing in this statement suggests a conclusion by the Federal Circuit that the steps a
 5 declaratory judgment plaintiff has made towards using a trademark should not be considered in
 6 determining whether there is a justiciable case or controversy. Indeed, in Benitec Australia, Ltd.,
 7 the court went on to examine the declaratory judgment plaintiff's activities and, in upholding
 8 dismissal of the declaratory judgment complaint, held that the plaintiff "failed to show that it's
 9 future plans meet the immediacy and reality requirement of MedImmune necessary to support a
 10 justiciable controversy." Id. at 1349. The court noted that plaintiff's "only steps toward
 11 potentially-infringing animal research are discussions with an unnamed potential customer and
 12 execution of an undescribed confidentiality agreement. [Plaintiff] merely 'expects' to begin work
 13 'shortly.'" Id. However, "to allow such a scant showing to provoke a declaratory judgment suit
 14 would be to allow nearly anyone who so desired to challenge a patent." Id. The court
 15 concluded:

16 We also recognized that Nucleonics wishes to receive the benefit of a ruling on the
 17 validity and scope of Benitec's patent now, while Nucleonics undertakes nascent
 18 animal work. There is currently, however, no "substantial controversy, [between
 19 Benitec and Nucleonics], of sufficient immediacy and reality to warrant issuance of
 20 a declaratory judgment." And there may never be.

21 Id. (quoting MedImmune, 549 U.S. at 127). See also PRASCO, LLC v. Medicis Pharm. Corp.,
 22 537 F.3d 1329, 1336 (Fed. Cir. 2008) (recognizing that although MedImmune rejected reasonable
 23 apprehension of suit as the *sole* test, its two-pronged inquiry remains relevant under the "all the
 24 circumstances" standard); Cat Tech LLC v. TubeMaster, Inc., 528 F.3d 871, 879-80 (Fed. Cir.
 25 2008) (post-MedImmune decision holding that "the issue of whether there has been meaningful
 26 preparation to conduct potentially infringing activity remains an important element in the totality
 27 of circumstances which must be considered in determining whether a declaratory judgment is
 28 appropriate" and finding there was a justiciable controversy in large part because the declaratory

1 judgment plaintiff had "taken significant, concrete steps" where it had designed, developed, and
 2 made all preparations to begin production of customized devices that potentially infringed a patent
 3 and had already successfully manufactured and delivered a similar accused device).

4 **D. Tradebay Fails To Distinguish The Cases Cited By eBay**

5 Tradebay fails to even mention, let alone address, the clear language from the Ninth Circuit
 6 that when the declaratory judgment plaintiff "has not yet begun to manufacture, or make
 7 preparations to manufacture, the patented product[,] . . . the plaintiff is asking the court to render
 8 an advisory opinion whether its product would be infringing a valid patent if the plaintiff . . .
 9 actually proceeds to the manufacturing stage." Societe de Conditionnement en Aluminium, 655
 10 F.2d at 944. Nor does Tradebay distinguish the numerous other cases cited by eBay that stand for
 11 this same proposition. In fact, Tradebay concedes that in Windsurfing Int'l, Inc. v. AMF Inc., 828
 12 F.2d 755 (Fed. Cir. 1987), the plaintiff "did not use the mark and took no steps toward using it"
 13 and thus "simply sought an advisory opinion regarding [its] mark." (Opp'n at 12.)

14 Tradebay attempts to distinguish Windsurfing and the other cases cited by eBay by arguing
 15 that the plaintiff in those cases sought a declaration approving use of an "identical mark" on the
 16 ground that the defendant's mark was generic and therefore not protectable, while here Tradebay
 17 seeks a declaration that its mark is not confusingly similar to eBay's trademarks and therefore does
 18 not infringe.² As a preliminary matter, it is simply not true that the plaintiffs in the cases cited by
 19 eBay all sought declarations that the defendant's mark was not protectable as opposed to
 20 declarations that the plaintiff's mark did not infringe.³ Furthermore, if anything, the need for

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22 ² Tradebay improperly suggests that it has obtained a registration for the TRADEBAY mark
 23 from the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO"). (Opp'n at 12) ("This situation is
 24 wholly different from allegations that a plaintiff's mark, obtained in a lengthy USPTO process, is
 25 similar to defendant's mark."). In fact, the PTO merely published Tradebay's intent to use
 26 application for opposition. See eBay Inc.'s Request for Judicial Notice, filed June 28, 2011
 27 (Docket No. 13), Ex. B.

28 ³ See, e.g., Starter Corp. v. Converse, Inc., 84 F.3d 592, 594 (2d Cir. 1996) (plaintiff sought
 29 declaratory judgment that use of its marks on athletic footwear did not create a likelihood of
 30 confusion with defendant's marks); Gator.com Corp. v. L.L. Bean, Inc., 398 F.3d 1125, 1127-28
 31 (9th Cir. 2005) (plaintiff sought declaratory judgment that its pop-up advertising software did "not
 32 infringe or dilute" defendant's trademarks because plaintiff had discontinued the accused conduct
 33 and the parties had informally resolved the dispute); Progressive Apparel Group, Inc. v. Anheuser-

1 actual concrete steps by the plaintiff to use the mark in commerce is even more critical where, as
 2 here, the plaintiff seeks a declaration that its mark is not confusingly similar to the defendant's
 3 mark. That is because it is a well established principle of trademark law that the issue of
 4 likelihood of confusion cannot be decided in the abstract. "The test for likelihood of confusion
 5 does not focus on similarity of competing marks in the abstract. Rather the test evaluates
 6 objective evidence that the competing marks, when used in the marketplace, are likely to confuse
 7 the purchasing public about the source of the products." Kenner Parker Toys Inc. v. Rose Art
 8 Indus., Inc., 963 F.2d 350, 352 (Fed. Cir. 1992). See also Louis Vuitton Malletier v. Burlington
 9 Coat Factory Corp., 426 F.3d 532, 538 (2d Cir. 2005) (noting that a court must "analyze the
 10 similarities of the products in light of the way in which the marks are actually displayed in their
 11 purchasing context."); Sykes Lab., Inc. v. Kalvin, 610 F. Supp. 849, 860 (C.D. Cal. 1985) ("In
 12 making the legal determination regarding confusion, the court must evaluate the marks *not in the*
 13 *abstract* but rather 'in light of the way the marks are encountered in the marketplace and the
 14 circumstances surrounding the purchase' of the products involved.") (quoting Lindy Pen Co. v. Bic
 15 Pen Corp., 725 F.2d 1240, 1245 (9th Cir. 1984)) (emphasis added).

16 Tradebay's attempt to distinguish a long line of cases that compel dismissal of its
 17 complaint for lack of subject matter jurisdiction is both factually wrong and legally without
 18 support.

19 **II. TRADEBAY HAS NOT ALLEGED OR OTHERWISE COME FORWARD WITH**
 20 **EVIDENCE OF ANY CONCRETE STEPS TO USE THE MARK**

21 Tradebay does not seriously contend that it has alleged, much less actually undertaken, any
 22 concrete steps to use the TRADEBAY mark that would create a "substantial controversy, between
 23 parties having adverse legal interests, of sufficient immediacy and reality to warrant the issuance

24
 25 Busch, Inc., 38 U.S.P.Q.2d 1057, 1996 WL 50227 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 8, 1996) (plaintiff sought
 26 declaratory judgment that use of its mark in connection with a line of sportswear was not
 27 "infringing the trademark rights of [the] defendant" where each party had filed a competing
 28 application with the USPTO); Mueller Co. v. U.S. Pipe and Foundry Co., 71 U.S.P.Q.2d 1849,
 2004 WL 102491 (D.N.H. Jan. 22, 2004) (fire hydrant manufacturer sought declaratory judgment
 that its fire hydrant design did "not infringe any of the plaintiffs' 'trade dress or other rights'" in a
 similar hydrant design).

1 of a declaratory judgment." MedImmune, 549 U.S. at 127. The only thing Tradebay points to is
 2 the filing of an *intent to use* application with the PTO more than two and a half years ago and the
 3 subsequent administrative proceeding before the Trademark Trial and Board ("TTAB") regarding
 4 the registerability of the mark.⁴ Tellingly, Tradebay is unable to identify any concrete steps to
 5 actually use the mark either prior to or in the years since filing the intent to use application.⁵
 6 Thus, this case is not, as Tradebay contends, like Chesebrough where the declaratory judgment
 7 plaintiff had "begun developing the product line, investigating marketing and creating packaging
 8 and advertising." 666 F.2d at 395. Tradebay argues that its "lengthy battle" with eBay with
 9 respect to Tradebay's intent to use application constitute "steps the Ninth Circuit has found
 10 sufficient to meet the case or controversy requirement." (Opp'n at 12.) Here again, Tradebay
 11 conflates reasonable apprehension of suit with concrete steps to use the mark at issue. Similarly,
 12 Tradebay claims that the "facts" it has pleaded "certainly meet the Ninth Circuit standard that
 13 Tradebay have a 'real and reasonable apprehension that it will be subject to liability *if [it]*
 14 *continues to manufacture its product.*'" (Opp'n at 10-11) (emphasis added). Of course, this
 15 overlooks a critical component of the Ninth Circuit standard—Tradebay cannot "continue" to
 16 manufacture products using the TRADEBAY mark because it has never manufactured products or
 17 offered goods and services using the mark in the first place.

18 Any dispute regarding Tradebay's intent to use application is properly resolved by the
 19 TTAB. It would be a waste of the Court's (and eBay's) resources and constitutionally improper to
 20 render what amounts to "an opinion advising what the law would be upon a hypothetical state of
 21 facts" (MedImmune, 562 U.S. at 127) regarding potential future use of Tradebay's purported mark,

22 ⁴ It is undisputed that Tradebay LLC, the plaintiff in this lawsuit, is a different entity than
 23 Tradebay Inc., the applicant for the TRADEBAY mark. Nonetheless, Tradebay accuses eBay of
 24 improperly attempting to "distract from the real issues" because Tradebay Inc., a Florida
 25 Corporation, was "lawfully converted" to Tradebay LLC, a Nevada limited liability company.
 26 (Opp'n at 13.) The complaint is devoid of any allegation referencing the conversion and
 27 Tradebay fails to explain how eBay was supposed to have gleaned the fact of this transaction from
 28 the pleadings. If Tradebay LLC, the plaintiff here, is now the owner of the trademark application
 referenced in the complaint, it should have alleged as much.

27 ⁵ Tradebay even concedes that it is not affiliated with the entity that maintained the Web site
 28 and domain name "trade-bay.net" as eBay erroneously assumed in a letter sent after Tradebay filed
 its intent to use application. (Opp'n at 4, n.1.)

1 where Tradebay has not alleged facts showing that it has taken any concrete steps toward using the
 2 mark.

3 **III. TRADEBAY'S COMPLAINT SHOULD BE DISMISSED**

4 Tradebay argues that the pleading standards set forth by the Supreme Court in Twombly
 5 and Iqbal are "immaterial" to the present motion because whether Tradebay has satisfied the "case
 6 or controversy" requirement for declaratory relief is a matter of subject matter jurisdiction which
 7 is governed by Rule 12(b)(1), not Rule 12(b)(6). (Opp'n at 5.) Tradebay's argument still makes
 8 no sense.⁶ At the pleading stage, the question is "whether *the facts alleged*, under all the
 9 circumstances, show that there is a substantial controversy, between parties having adverse legal
 10 interests, of sufficient immediacy and reality to warrant the issuance of a declaratory judgment."

11 Md. Cas. Co. v. Pac. Coal & Oil Co., 312 U.S. at 273. See also Warren v. Fox Family
 12 Worldwide, Inc., 328 F.3d 1136, 1139 (9th Cir. 2003) ("jurisdictional challenge under Rule
 13 12(b)(1) may be made either on the face of the pleadings or by presenting extrinsic evidence.");
 14 Rhoades v. Avon Prods., Inc., 504 F.3d at 1160 (stating in connection with ruling on motion to
 15 dismiss complaint for declaratory relief, "the questioned presented is whether [plaintiff's
 16 complaint] is, on its face, sufficient to survive a motion to dismiss."). Claims for declaratory
 17 judgment are no different than any other claims. Whether the complaint alleges sufficient facts to
 18 state a claim for relief is examined in accordance with the standard articulated by the Supreme
 19 Court in Twombly and Iqbal. See, e.g., Forsythe v. United States, 2011 WL 1882385, at *8 (D.
 20 Nev. May 17, 2011) (setting forth two-step analysis from Twombly and Iqbal and dismissing
 21 plaintiffs' action for declaratory and injunctive relief "for failure to state a claim upon which relief
 22 may be granted"); Sawyer v. Recontrust Co., N.A., 2011 WL 2619517, at *1, *3-4 (D. Or. May
 23 27, 2011) (applying Twombly and Iqbal standards and holding plaintiff "has not alleged sufficient
 24 facts to state a claim for declaratory relief because the allegations do not reveal any justiciable

25
 26 ⁶ Nor does Tradebay's reliance on Rhoades for the procedural point that motions to dismiss
 27 for failure to satisfy the jurisdictional case or controversy requirement may be brought "only under
 28 Rule 12(b)(1)" warrant dismissal of eBay's motion. eBay's motion is expressly brought under both
 Rule 12(1) and Rule 12(b)(6).

1 controversy"). As set forth above, Tradebay's amended complaint fails to allege the necessary
 2 facts to state a claim for declaratory relief under this standard.

3 Tradebay appears to invite the Court to consider evidence outside the pleadings in ruling
 4 on eBay's motion. (Opp'n at 5.) "In such circumstances, no presumptive truthfulness attaches to
 5 plaintiff's allegations." Augustine v. United States, 704 F.2d 1074, 1077 (9th Cir. 1983).
 6 Moreover, Tradebay bears the burden of proving that jurisdiction is proper. McCauley v. Ford
 7 Motor Co., 264 F.3d 952, 957 (9th Cir. 2001) ("The party asserting federal jurisdiction bears the
 8 burden of proving the case is properly in federal court."). Tradebay's invitation to go beyond the
 9 pleadings does nothing to save the complaint. As shown, Tradebay has not come forward with
 10 any evidence of concrete steps to use the mark that would establish a justiciable controversy.
 11 Having urged the Court to look beyond the pleadings and then failing to produce any such
 12 evidence independently warrants dismissal of the complaint with prejudice.

13 **Conclusion**

14 For the foregoing reasons, the Court should grant eBay's motion to dismiss Tradebay's
 15 amended complaint with prejudice.

16 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 25th day of August, 2011.

17

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

2 Pursuant to FRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of McDonald Carano Wilson LLP
3 and on the 25th day of August, 2011, I electronically filed the forgoing document with the Clerk
4 of the Court using the ECF System, which will cause a copy of the foregoing to be delivered by
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